### Ferever Free!

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nnouncement that the Con mendment has been ratified by two-tairds of the States has excited but little interest, for the reason the public had already been advised of that fact. It puts all doubts at rest, however, concernong the matter, and as a formal declaration that slavery no longer exists in the United States It is erving of more than passing notice. The country is now free from that stain which for more than two hundred years has blackened its his ory, and it may now justly claim the tiste, which before was a mockery, "the land of universal liberty." Such is the work of five years. It seems but yesterday that the four millions of negroes were "hattels" in the South ; that they were bought and sold at the auction block : that the slave toerest ruled in the councils of the nation ; that the slaveholders demanded the extension of "the peculiar institution " into the Northern Terriories; that they threatened to break up the Union if the North would not accede to their demands All this is still fresh in the memory, yet to-day there is no slaveholder, no slave, and not an inch of slave territory in the whole United States

## Reconstructed Alabama - Important Re-sults to be Looked For.

Tax action of the President in restoring the civil government of Alabama at this time, will occasion much discussion and criticism. The practiportance, for the Government still holds a controlling hand over the State by virtue or its military authority. The Anbeas corpus remains imperative in Alabams, and the military will still be upreme in any case of conflicting authority that may srice. The real status of Alabama will now be precisely the same as that of Kentucky, except the latter State is not debarred from Congressional representation. But the moral effect of this action, and its probable bearing upon Congress will cause it to be regarded with reat interest throughout the country. Of course it will be joyfully received in all the lately rebel States, for it will be regarded there as an indica tion that the President intends to extend his action in the case of Alaban a to all the other States that under Provisional Governments. And further, it will be interpreted as evidence that the President has placed himself between the Southern States and the "Radicals," and that he intends to make an seese with Congress on behalf of the The effect of this policy in respec to Alabama can only be determined If the late rebels shall regard it in the proper spirit and endeavor to show by their conduct that they appreciate the President's leniency, and that they are disposed to prove their gratitude therefor, then it would doubtless have a beneficial effect. But if, on the contrary, they should treat it as they have treated all his previous sees of elemency-by using it as a medium for the bitter exhibition of their hatred for the Gov ernment-then it would certainly be pernicious. We have nothing but experience to use as a standard with which to reach a favorable conclusion in this case, and certainly the prospect is not encouraging when we look at the fruits of that ex-Judged by that light, the President's policy looks something like an attempt to check a refractory horse, by giving him a slack tein. The wide divergence between this step of the Presiand the apparent programme of Congress however, is of most consequence politically, The House of Representatives, under the leadership of THAD, STEVENS, has declared that the reclaimed States shall remain in a probationary condition for a while before having their Constitutional rights rectored. STEVANS, himself, in the ch delivered on Monday, claimed that the Executive has no authority to relieve the rebellious es of their disability, and that Congress is the only power that is qualified to act in that capacity. It is evident, therefore, that the House must either renounce its present programme, and adopt one essentially different, or else come to an open lasue on the question of recognizing Alabama. It is not improbable that this Alabama affair may prove to be the rock that is destined to shiver the pretended friendship which has been so generally manifested by the politicians of all classes toward the President, and that the new formation of parties, which must come ere long, will be the result.

Congress and the President. Tun special message of the President, and the accompanying report of General GRANT, upon the condition of the lately rebellious States, are in Administration intend to take up the gauntlet for the South upon the reconstruction issue, and thus provoke a rupture with the dominant party in We see no ground for such an interpretation of these documents. The Senate passed a resolution of inquiry, requesting the President to furnish to Congress such official information as he possessed respecting the present condition of the Southern States. The message which he transmitted to the Senate on Tuesday was simply an answer to the inquiry of that body, and the reports of Generals GEART and SCRUEZ were intended to amplify and extend the desired exposition. It is true, essage presents a very gratifying condition of affairs to the South ; but its language is so carefully guarded and so amply qualified that it is evidently intended to be only a mild hint of what the President would like Congress to de. Moreover, it substantially expresses nothing more than the annual message of the President at the opening of Congress. That document was favorable to an early restoration of the civil status of the Southern States, but the President was very cautious to say, in connection with his opinion, that Congress and not the Executive was the proper judge of all questions of representation. General GRANT's report, to which much weight has been attached, has no political significance whatever. That officer had lately spent a week in a flying visit to Savannah, and the President merely enclosed his report to the Senate as corroborative evidence of what was affirmed in the message. Therefore, we see no ground for believing that the President has the intention of making an issue with the najority party of Congress. A few extremists like Summa in the Senate and Stroums in the House will, doubtless, parade their fanaticism in satter, as they always do when opportunity to given ; but the readiness of such W es as DooLittle and Dixon to vindicate the age from the aspersions of Mr. SUMPER is good use that there is no possibility of a rupture. of on far as the few implecable me

are corperned. The time will come was the various political shades will no longer remain in the support of the President. They will take distinctive colors of some kind, as they did tefore assuming the Jonsson hue; but we may safely surmise that the breaking up will not be inaugurated or desired by the President. His policy is to maintain, as long as possible, the approval of the conservative masses both North and south; and with this object in view he has no aversion to stirring up the extremists in both ultraists. Such is the probability concerning the effect of the message, so jar as the relations beween the President and Congress are concorned. Whether the appearance of the locument at this time is entirely judicious or not cambe determined only by time.

## The Fening Troubles.

Tue unfortunate trouble in the Fenian organization is deployed by every true friend of Irish inde pendence. Only a few days ago it was apparently united in the strong bond of fraternity, with no jar or discord, and quietly preparing for the great work of rescuing Ireland from the clutch of the oppressor. In this country the most hopeful anticpations were indulged for the success of the glorious cause at which Fenianism was siming; in Ireland, the people were eagerly looking for the coming of their breshern from this side of the Atlantic, to sound the toesin of Irish liberty. In England, John Bull was trembling like an aspen leaf, and even in Canada the blue noses said awake at night in dreadful apprehension that the Fenian legions would pounce upon them, from over the border, before daylight. Now, however, the same evil influgio which discusted the Roman Empire, cause the downfall of Greece and nearly dissevered the Imerican Union-internal dissention-is gnawing at the very vitals of the cause on which hung the last fond hope of Irish liberty. Instead of gatty ring up its strength to burl like an avalanche up tyrannical England, the Feulan organization ing uself by e.v.l strife, and leaving chuckle at the thought of winning a blood Shall this greates, most completely of most powerful organizations hallors cause of Irish independence in the most powerful organization in the most powerful organization in the most powerful in the that were built upon it, bece the cours rupture among its leaders ; cor of the " satisfied that if this troube must necessarily fall, then gree the only hope now I her, by to I had difficulty in second, and immediate, the feet of the the Fenian Cornutically, positing may be done is the list, where the list of the list, where the list of the list

until it ends in the entire Duptie monize for the common go in an ardent devotion to the cause. unison toward the great consumma the British lion to his den, and hoist; flag upon every house-top in Ireland. Rebel Debts-The Proposed Ame Own of the conditions of restoration. President has repeatedly urged upon the States, is the repudiation of all obligation of the said States have already taken the action by repudiating these debts, and ther reason to believe that any serious objection; be made to the measure by any of the rec States. Therefore, the proposed amendment Constitution, which has emanated from the Illi'h prohibiting the payment of such obligation practically of but little consequence and might gwell have been dispensed with. At the same tive

well have been dispensed with. As the same well have been dispensed with. As the same well the moral effect of such an amendment would it the moral effect of such an amendment would it. any future attempt to endorse any kind of dethat were contracted in the interest of rebellion. A State that has passed an act of repudiation, might at some time hereafter revoke that act and pay its rebel debt, if no Constitutional provision prohibited; and while it is not likely that any State would be guilty of such perfidy for the sake of adding to its impoverisament, it may be as well to

# A Banditte in Detroit-Confessions of a

have the matter put entirely at gest.

THE Detroit DAILY UNION says : For a long time past, a gang of outlaws have infested the outskirts of Detroit, and have commissed a series of skirts of Detroit, and have committed a series of depredations which have created a wide-spread feeling of consternation and alarm among those who are compelled to pass through woods and lonely places in coming to and going from the city. Not only have men been robbed upon the highway but the passures and barns of farmers have been made to suffer to an alarming extent, and no clue has ever been found by which to identify the thieves. The arrest of the Borile family, a few days ago, on the charge of shooting of Mr. Butterfield, is likely to lead to wonderful results. Not only has a murderer been apprehended, but it is certain a gang of banditit, who have hid themselves in the forcets of Springwells, and only left their place of concealment to rob and steal and murder if necessary, have also been apprehended, and are now on the broad road that will lead them to the cells of felons. A man named Charley Knight, who was known to be a confederate of the Boriles family, was found in a hut occupied as the beadquariers of the gang. He was taken before Justice Luddow, and there made a full confession, implicating himself and the others in more than twenty different transactions, from highway robbery down to stealing hogs, catte, horses and sheep, and other depredations. This confession was taken down in writing by the Justice, and awon to by the frightened highway man, who, it is supposed, made the statement with the idea that his punishment would be materially lessened thereby. By the aid of Knight's confession the following criminals were arrested in mere C. Bordes, the father, who took the had-cuffs from his son, and aided him in escaping to Canada; Nellie Bortles, wife of the old man, only 22 years of age; John Bordles, the murderer; Thomas and Federick, his two brothers; Mrs. Culbert, sister of the brothers, who was arrested for conveying information to them after they had fied to Canada; Kr. John Bordles, the murderer; Hannahe E. Harringtos, the wife of the depredations which have created a wide-spread brothers: Mrs. Culbert, sister of the brothers, who was arrested for conveying information to them after they had fled to Canada; Mrs. John Bordes, formerly Hannah: E. Harringtok the wife of the murderer, who skied him in esaping. The wife of the old man, on being interogated as to her reasons for marrying such an fol and repuisive husband, replied, with much results fool!" She is a young woman of good appersance, and seems to entertain no love for her decread husband; out the contrary, she does not attemt to conceal her aversion, and has been heard to express her wish that "the whole tribe will go to State Prison." From what we can learn we shald infer that her wash will be more than realized—they will all go there, and take her with them.

A now took place in Norfolks, on the 15th, between the 20th New York Regnent and the 30th United States Colored. A vally of from ten to twelve muskete was fired by he 20th upon the colored troops, which was about to be returned when their officers arrived, ancout an end to the disturbance. Only one men (cored) was injured.

## Tuesday, December 19. CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS. Thirty-ninth Session.

SENATE.

Washington, Drc. 18.-Mr. Grimes presented the petition of Vice Admiral Farragut and eleven hundred other naval officers, asking for an increase of pay, which was referred to the Committee on Naval

A resolution was passed instructing the Secretary of the Senate to pay out of the Contingent Fund to Mrs.

the Senate to pay out of the Contingent Fund to Mrs. Mary Collamer the amount due to Hen. Jacob Collamer at the time of h s death.

Mr. Poolititle, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, reported a secolution, which was adopted, for the expenditure of five hundred thousand collars for the support of destitute Indians in the Southern dependencies, and the purchase of seriesitural impiements for said Indians, the money to be taken from a fund of twelve hundred thousand deliars now in the passes on of the Secretary of the Interior for such Pulipose.

Mr. Wilson offered a resolution providing for the appointment of an examining board to relieve officers of the regular army who have not rendered meritorious service in the late war, and to fill their places by sppointments from the regular army Veteran Reserve Corps and the volunteer force; which was referred to the Military Committee.

Mr. Wilson explained the object of the above resolution. He said there were men in the regular army who had rendered no service, comparatively, during the war; while many, who had commanded corps and alvisions, would have to return to subordinate positions in the recular army. It was the object of the resolution to enable the country to take advantage of the experience with many officers in the regular and volunteer service had obtained in the past four years.

Mr. Fessenden called up the House bill for the refurnishing and repairing of the President's House, which was passed.

Mr. Wilson offered the following, which was sdopted:

Resolved. That the Committee on Commerce be natructed to inquire into and report upon the manner in which American vessels transferred during the eticilion to British owners, are now being refurs-shed with American registers, and, if the same be of in accordance with law, what legislation, if any, a necessary to prevent such transaction.

Mr. Doolittle introduced a bill in relation to the qualifications of jurors, and to write of error in certyranhervatheid incompetent to act as a grand jurer by reason of
havins formed or expressed an opinion upon the matter in question, founded upon public rumor, statements of the public journal, or the common history
of the times; provided he he otherwise competent,
and it appear to the suinfaction of the Court that
not withstanding such opinion he can and will act
to the times and true presentment make according to
the first to the suinfaction of the Court that
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to the first to the suinfaction of the Court that
not withstanding such opinion as above foundtion of the court of the c tain cases, which provides that no person shall be

if not incompatible with the public interests, the President be requested to communicate to this House the reasons why Jefferson Davis, said to be confined at Fortress Monroe, has not been tried for treason against the Government; and if any, what obstacles are in the way of his trial as a state criminal. Objection being made, the resolution west over under the rule.

Mr. Thornton, of Illinois, offered a resolution delaring that questions relative to the elective franchise should be referred to the several States. Tabled Mr. Orth, of Indiana, moved that the President

be called on to inform the House, or furnish the House with any information as to the application of the so called Mexican Empire to obtain a recognition from the United States.

Mr. Stillweil, of Indiana, offered a resolution to

the effect that the people who have been in rebellion against the Government, and who have submitted to the laws of the United States, and adopted a repub ilean form of government, repealed the ordinances of secondon, possed the Constitutional amendment forever abolishing slavery, repudiated the rebel debt, and passed law protecting the freedman in his liberty, the representatives of the people elected to Consciss having received their certificates of election from their respective fovernors should be received as members of the Thirty-ninth Congress when they shall take the test oath.

The above was referred to the Committee on Reconstruction.

Mr. Hill, of Indiana, introduced the following

resolution:

Resolved, That the act of July 2, 1562, prescribing an oath to be taken and subscribe; to by persons elected or appointed to office under the Government of the United States, before entering upon the duties of such offices, is of binding force and effect in all the departments of the public service, and should in ne instance be dispensed with.

A motion was made to lay the resolution on the table, which was disagreed to by yeas, 32; nays, 126. The resolution was then passed.

A measage was received from the Senate accompanied by a report from that body proposing appro priate action consequent upon the death of Presiden

Anceln. The report was unanimously concurred in Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, from the Select Com Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, from the Select Committee appointed to take action on the bill for the relief of Mrs. Lincoin, etc., reported the same with a substitute, namely, that the Secretary of the Treasury pay to Mrs. Mary Lincoin, widow of Abraham Lincoin, teenty-five thousand dollars. Mr. Wentworth moved that the sum of one hundred thousand, instead of twenty-five thousand dollars, be appropriated.

This was disagreed to, and the bill popropriating twenty-five thousand dollars.

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the besser and safety of the United St. direction of the President, therefore, you are from the trust which was heretofore reposed as Provisional Governor of the State of whenever the Governor elect shall have acce, become qualified to discharge the duties of cutive office. You will transfer the paperoperty of the State now in your custon the state of the state of the paperoperty of the State now in your custon the state of the state of the state of the paperoperty of the State now in your custon the state of the state of the state of the paperoperty of the state now in your custom to the state of the paper of the fidelity, the loyatty discretion which have marked your adjust the day on which this communication is rehave the honor to be your Excellency obewant.

Mr. Seward has also addressed a similar col nation to the elected Governor of Georgia, co.

## THE EX-REBEL STATES. Message from the President to the set To the Schate of the United States :

In reply to the resolution adopted by the Ser on the 12th, I have the honor to state that the lion waged by a portion of the people against properly constituted authorities of the Govern the United States has been suppressed ; 12:04 United States are in possession of every grade it which the insurrection existed; and that, as could be done, the course of the United States theen restored, post offices re-established, and; in taken to put into effective operation the review laws of the country. As the result of the mean ing a resumption of the functions of the St. 1 c prehended in the inquiry of the Senate, t) " Pe prehended in the inquiry of the Senate, if in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Louislans, Arkansas and Tenner coomized their respective State Government with the control of the United States with more willingness of the United States with more willingness of promptime than under the circumstant reasonably have been anticipated. The amendment to the Constitution, providing alorition of slavery forever within the limit country, has been ratified by each one States, with the exception of Mississippi, from no official information has been received; an enable of them measures have been additionable of the combination of the conference of the combined of the comb in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas and Tenne